



Faculty of Arts and Social Science
Media and Communication Studies

Syllabus

Research methods and academic essay

Course Code:	MKGB03
Course Title:	Research methods and academic essay <i>Research methods and academic essay</i>
Credits:	15
Degree Level:	Undergraduate level
Progressive Specialisation:	First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (G1F)

Major Field of Study:
MKA (Media and Communication Studies)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Science 2015-09-10, and is valid from the Spring semester 2016 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

Media and Communication Studies 1-30 ECTS

Learning Outcomes

Module 1

Upon completion of module, students should be able to:

- give an account of the different research methods used in media- and communication studies,
- give an account of the steps of the research process,
- identify and give arguments for the method or methods best suited to investigating a research problem in media and communication studies.

Module 2

Upon completion of module, students should be able to:

- problematise ethical issues in research and investigative projects,
- critical review and evaluate research design, methods application and research results in media and communication studies, and
- design and perform a minor research project.

Content

The course comprises two modules:

Module 1 Research Methods, 7.5 ECTS cr

Students acquire knowledge of the research process and its various steps and problems of method in relation to investigations in media and communication studies. Introduction to different methods is provided on the basis of all the steps in the process. The emphasis is on research design and methods

for data collection and presentation of results rather than on analysis. Ethical issues relevant to research and investigations in media and communication studies are treated throughout. Instruction is based on exercises and practical applications.

Module 2 Independent Project 7.5 ECTS cr

Students develop abilities to carry out a research project independently by writing an essay in a chosen problem area. Special emphasis is on research design and methods application. Supervision is only provided for the course duration. Re-registered students are offered supervision if circumstances permit.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Module 1:

Assessment is based on group work presented orally and in writing in mandatory seminars and on an individual hand-in assignment presented orally and in writing in mandatory seminars. Students are also required to serve as a seminar peer reviewer.

Module 2:

Assessment is based on a group work resulting in an independent academic work presented and discussed in mandatory final seminars. Students are also required to serve as a seminar peer reviewer.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course. The grade of Distinction is awarded to students who have received this grade for 8 of the 15 course credits.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.